

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 7, 15, 30-32, 34-36, 38-41, and 43-62 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 7, 30-32, 34-36, 38-41, 43-46, 48-51, 53-56 and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over European Patent Application EP 1 102 512 A1 to Garcia-Belloido et al. (hereinafter “Garcia-Belloido”) in view of European Patent Application EP 0 760 564 A2 to Engstrom et al. (hereinafter “Engstrom”).

Garcia-Belloido is a European patent application that does not have a counterpart PCT application. Garcia-Belloido was published on May 23, 2001, which is after the February 7, 2001 filing date of the pending application. Applicants submit that Garcia-Belloido is not a proper reference under any section of 35 USC §102. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7, 30-32, 34-36, 38-41, 43-46, 48-51, 53-56 and 58-61.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Garcia-Belloido in view of Engstrom as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,092,372 to Jensen et al. (hereinafter "Jensen").

Claim 15 depends upon claim 1, which at least by virtue of its dependency is allowable over the cited references for the reasons provided above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 47, 52, 57 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Belloido in view of Engstrom as applied to claims 1, 30, 34, and 38 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,008 to Masui et al. (hereinafter "Masui").

Claim 47 depends upon claim 1, which at least by virtue of its dependency is allowable over the cited references for the reasons provided above. Claim 52 depends upon claim 30, which at least by virtue of its dependency is allowable over the cited references for the reasons provided above. Claim 57 depends upon claim 34, which at least by virtue of its dependency is allowable over the cited references for the reasons provided above. Claim 62 depends upon claim 38, which at least by virtue of its dependency is allowable over the cited references for the reasons provided above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claim 47, 52, 57, and 62 is respectfully requested.

Applicant: Nelson et al.
Application No.: 09/778,474

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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